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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
24 MASON STREET
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
02903

JOHN S. RENZA
DIRECTOR

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EDWARD D. DI PRETE
GOVERNOR

VOLUME 37 NOVEMBER 1988 NO. 11

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT INCREASES TO 463,300

Additional hiring in both the Manufacturing and Nonmanufacturing sectors increased overall establishment employment in Rhode Island to a new record high level of 463,300 in October, reported John S. Renza, director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security.

According to preliminary estimates prepared by the Department of Employment Security, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island employment rose by 2,700 from last month to the current total of 463,300. This figure represents a gain of 3,600 jobs from the October 1987 level of 459,700.

MANUFACTURING

Total factory employment advanced 900 in the September-October period to 117,000, primarily due to gains in the Durable Goods category. Nevertheless, the current manufacturing total remains 800 below the year ago figure of 117,800. In the various Durable Goods industries, the October employment total of 80,700 reflected an increase of 900 from the prior month, but showed a drop of 600 compared to the October 1987 level. The Nondurable Goods total of 36,300 jobs was unchanged from September, but fell 200 below the figure reported a year ago this month.

Within the Durable Goods sector, the largest monthly employment gain (+400) was posted in Transportation Equipment (due to the settlement of a labor dispute), followed by upturns of 100 each in Lumber/Furniture, Primary Metals, Nonelectrical Machinery, Electrical Machinery and Jewelry-Silverware. The number

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1989 TAXABLE WAGE BASE

In accordance with State law, the 1989 taxable wage bases for the Employment Security and Temporary Disability Insurance programs have been determined. John S. Renza, Employment Security Director, recently announced that the wage base on which Employment Security taxes will be paid during the 1989 tax year that begins on January 1 will be $12,800. The wage base for T.D.I. contributions will also be $12,800.

The 1989 taxable wage bases for the E.S. and T.D.I. programs are equal to 70 percent of the 1987 average annual wage earned by workers covered by the Employment Security and Temporary Disability Insurance Acts respectively, rounded upward to the next even multiple of $200. The 1987 average annual wage for workers covered by the E.S. Act was $18,176; the average annual wage for workers covered by T.D.I. was $18,106.

Employers will be notified of their individual unemployment insurance tax rates prior to next April 1.

Beginning January 1, 1989 employers who pay Unemployment Insurance taxes will also pay a job development assessment equal to 0.1% of their taxable payrolls. It will not result in additional taxes on employers since the rates on all U.I. tax schedules will be reduced by 0.1% in 1989. The assessment will fund the Workforce 2000 Job Development program which will provide job training, counseling and assessment services to develop Rhode Island's work force.

The employee tax rate for Temporary Disability Insurance will be 1.0 percent of the new T.D.I. wage base in 1989.

RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE OFFICES

BRISTOL COUNTY, 470 Metacom Ave.	245-9300
EAST PROVIDENCE, 877 Broadway	277-3546
NEWPORT COUNTY, 73 Valley Road	
Middletown	847-3680
PAWTUCKET, 109 Main St.	722-7500
PROVIDENCE, 130 West Exchange St.	
Jewelry	277-3553
Manufacturing & Construction	277-3556
Professional & Clerical	277-3584
Temporary Help	277-3559
WAKEFIELD, Oliver Stedman Gov't. Center	
Tower Hill Road	789-9721
WARWICK, 50 Airport Road	737-9624
WESTERLY, 57 Spruce Street	596-2814
WEST WARWICK, 1330 Main St.	828-6134
WOONSOCKET, 217 Pond St.	762-9010

OTHER JOB SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

JOB BANK	277-3588
TJTC Information	277-3726
TJTC Job Orders	277-3726
Employer Relations Unit	277-3458
Jobs for Rhode Island Graduates	277-6813
CALL-A-TEEN	
Call your local Job Service Office	
Project STEADY	277-6813

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987
Total Placements	695	1,789	765
New Applications	1,721	2,872	2,031
New Openings Received	1,258	2,834	1,774

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES

	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1988	% Change Sept.1988
Initial Claims	4,909	4,068	+ 20.7
No. of Payments	30,829	34,069	- 9.5
Amt. of Payment	$ 4,976,719	$ 5,396,837	- 7.8
Exhaustions	748	761	- 1.8

TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987
Initial Claims	3,456	3,477	3,462
No. of Payments	26,486	29,877	26,107
Amt. of Payments	$ 4,557,493	$ 5,001,326	$ 4,178,857

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987
Civilian Labor Force	527.9	523.8	526.3
Unemployment	13.4	12.8	16.0
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.5	2.4	3.0
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	3.0	2.8	3.7

PROVIDENCE

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	September 1988	August 1988	September 1987
Civilian Labor Force	341.7	338.9	339.9
Unemployment	8.2	9.0	11.1
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.7	2.7	3.3

PAWTUCKET - WOONSOCKET - ATTLEBORO

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	September 1988	August 1988	September 1987
Civilian Labor Force	166.3	168.9	166.7
Unemployment	5.2	6.1	6.2
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.1	3.6	3.7

NEWPORT Labor Area

Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates

	September 1988	August 1988	September 1987
Civilian Labor Force	37,065	37,150	36,370
Unemployment	770	780	910
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.1	2.1	2.5

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED IN RHODE ISLAND AUGUST 15-19, 1988

Sex and Age	Number	Percent
Total	11,172	100.0
Men	5,328	47.7
Under 45	3,477	65.3
45 and Over	1,851	34.7
Women	5,844	52.3
Under 45	3,555	60.8
45 and Over	2,288	39.2
Industry Attachment		
Contract Construction	806	7.2
Manufacturing	4,350	38.9
Public Utilities	1,071	9.6
Wholesale and Retail	1,666	14.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	331	3.0
Service	2,564	23.0
All Other	384	3.4
Occupational Skills		
Prof., Tech. and Managerial	1,930	17.3
Clerical and Sales	2,312	20.7
Service	1,190	10.6
Fishery, Forestry & Rel. Occ.	40	0.4
Processing	278	2.5
Machine Trades	886	7.9
Bench Work	1,732	15.5
Structural Work	1,468	13.1
Miscellaneous	1,336	12.0
INA	0	0.0

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*	463.3	460.6	459.7	+ 2,700	+ 3,600
MANUFACTURING	117.0	116.1	117.8	+ 900	- 800
NONMANUFACTURING	346.3	344.5	341.9	+ 1,800	+ 4,400
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	21.7	21.5	20.7	+ 200	+ 1,000
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.8	15.9	15.8	- 100	0
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	106.6	106.8	105.2	- 200	+ 1,400
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	26.5	26.7	25.6	- 200	+ 900
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	117.2**	116.6**	116.0	+ 600	+ 1,200
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local)	58.5	57.0	58.6	+ 1,500	- 100

1988 Figures are PRELIMINARY. 1987 Figures are REVISED. Estimates are for Pay Period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

* Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded.

**Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			Net Change From		PRODUCTION- WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings		Weekly Hours		Hourly Earnings	
	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1987	Oct. 1988	Oct. 1987	Oct. 1988	Oct. 1987	Oct. 1988	Oct. 1987
ALL MANUFACTURING	117.0	116.1	117.8	+ 900	- 800	340.16	332.40	39.6	40.0	8.59	8.31
DURABLE GOODS	80.7	79.8	81.3	+ 900	- 600	334.57	330.44	39.5	40.2	8.47	8.22
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.1	3.0	3.0	+ 100	+ 100	410.06	394.13	40.4	40.8	10.15	9.66
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 100	424.00	414.00	40.0	40.0	10.60	10.35
PRIMARY METALS	5.3	5.2	5.4	+ 100	- 100	412.51	404.39	41.5	42.3	9.94	9.56
FABRICATED METALS	8.9	8.9	9.0	0	- 100	331.63	316.80	40.1	40.0	8.27	7.92
NONELECTRIC MACH.	6.2	6.1	6.2 *	+ 100	0	475.64	454.08	44.0	44.0	10.81	10.32
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	11.6	11.5	11.8	+ 100	- 200	305.37	298.65	39.1	39.4	7.81	7.58
TRANSPORTATION EQUIP.	9.1	8.7 *	9.2	+ 400	- 100	449.16	448.11	39.4	40.7	11.40	11.01
INSTRUMENTS	4.8 *	4.8 *	4.8 *	0	0	340.00	331.70	40.0	40.9	8.50	8.11
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	23.8	23.7	23.7	+ 100	+ 100	267.96	264.26	38.5	40.1	6.96	6.59
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.1	6.1	6.3	0	- 200	278.63	257.75	37.3	36.1	7.47	7.14
NONDURABLE GOODS	36.3	36.3	36.5	0	- 200	352.63	336.15	39.8	39.5	8.86	8.51
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.0	2.9	3.1	+ 100	- 100	326.14	295.20	38.1	36.9	8.56	8.00
TEXTILES	10.2	10.1	10.2	+ 100	0	320.74	301.60	40.6	40.0	7.90	7.54
APPAREL	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	- 200	288.64	285.36	40.2	41.0	7.18	6.96
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0	316.00	317.34	40.0	41.7	7.90	7.61
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.9	6.9	6.8	0	+ 100	449.58	438.14	38.1	38.0	11.80	11.53
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.2	3.2	3.1	0	+ 100	442.38	435.49	40.4	40.7	10.95	10.70
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 100	364.83	342.79	40.9	41.3	8.92	8.30
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	4.6 *	4.7	4.7	- 100	- 100	367.43	331.24	40.6	39.2	9.05	8.45
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.2	2.3	2.1	- 100	+ 100	251.81	242.38	38.8	39.8	6.49	6.09

1987 Figures REVISED 1988 Figures are PRELIMINARY. Estimates are for pay period which includes the 12th of the month.

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*Labor Dispute

RHODE ISLAND
EMPLOYMENT
BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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of jobs in the remaining Durable Goods industries was unchanged in the September-October period. On an annual comparison, employment increases of 100 each were recorded in Lumber/Furniture and Jewelry-Silverware. Contrarily, job levels in Electrical Machinery and the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment were down 200 each for the twelve month period. Furthermore, declines of 100 each were registered in Stone-Clay-Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals and Transportation Equipment, while employment in Nonelectrical Machinery and Instruments showed no change from a year ago.

Among the Nondurable Goods producing industries, monthly job gains of 100 each in Food-Beverage and Textiles were offset by declines of 100 each in Plastics Products and Leather Products. The remaining Nondurable Goods industries equalled their September employment levels. Compared to a year ago, advances of 100 each occurred in Printing-Publishing, Chemical Products and Leather Products. In contrast, annual downturns were reported in Apparel (-200), followed by decreases of 100 each in Food-Beverage, Rubber Products and Plastics Products. Employment levels in the remaining Nondurable Goods industries showed no change compared to the same month a year ago.

NONMANUFACTURING

Total employment in Rhode Island Nonmanufacturing establishments rose by 1,800 from September to October, largely the result of education-related seasonal gains in Services and Government. The October employment level of 346,300 is also 4,400 jobs higher than the year earlier figure of 341,900.

Within the Nonmanufacturing sector, Services employment increased 600 for the month to 117,200 and was up 1,200 compared to October 1987. Overall Government jobs, at 58,500, posted a monthly upturn of 1,500, mainly due to education-related gains; however, the current figure represents a decrease of 100 from the same month a year ago. As a result of a monthly job gain of 200, Contract Construction employment advanced to 21,700, which was 1,000 above the total recorded a year ago. Payroll levels in both Trade, at 106,600, and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, at 26,500, reflected monthly declines of 200. Nevertheless, the former was up 1,400, while the latter increased 900 compared to the year earlier figures. Although employment in Transportation and Public Utilities fell 100 for the month to 15,800, it showed no change on an annual basis.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers increased by 4 cents to $8.59 in mid-October, and were up 28 cents compared to a year ago. The average work week was down by 0.1 of an hour in October to 39.6 hours. This was 0.4 of an hour less than the October 1987 work week. Average weekly earnings for these workers amounted to $340.16 in October, representing an increase of 72 cents from last month and a gain of $7.76 from a year ago.

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